

Like so many Americans who have submitted comments in this docket, I too oppose any move to allow increased consolidation among media outlets, be they broadcast, cable or newspaper companies. It is simply not true that consolidation leads to diversity: quite the opposite. One only need look at the usual fare of the broadcast networks to realize that increasingly news reporting has become nothing but cross-marketing for other "programming." Only public television and radio provide a consistent forum for quality discussion of public affairs in this country, and these locally controlled outlets (the only ones in some communities) are experiencing increasing financial pressure for other reasons. It is the height of arrogance for any conservative to allow the concentration of power into a few hands under the banner of freedom of choice when in actuality choice will be compromised. For the conservatives on the Commission, I urge you to read Safire's column in the New York Times on this issue. You will find that it is you who are out of step with the conservative ethos of your colleagues. For the liberals on the Commission, you are right to worry that allowing media consolidation surely abdicates the Commission's responsibility to manage this precious resource in the public interest. I urge the Commission to oppose further media consolidation.

-Andrew D. Cotlar
8401 Forrester Blvd
Springfield, VA 22152